



## **Tehama County Resource Conservation District Receives Fire Grant**

Red Bluff 09/08/2012

The Tehama County Resource Conservation District received a \$23,550 grant Thursday from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's governing board. The grant is part of \$2.2 million in Healthy Forest grants designed to reduce the risk of forest fires and protect California's watersheds in 14 Sierra counties.

The money in Tehama will be used for the Tramway Road/A-Line Road Shaded Fuel Break CEQA Environmental Analysis Project. The grants are funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water Act passed by voters in 2006.

Returning our forests to ecological health reduces the threat of fire, protecting our wildlife, our water and our lives, said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. These projects will help us achieve these goals, while providing jobs and helping to sustain local Sierra economies.

The types of projects typically funded under the SNC's grant program include fuels reduction (removal of underbrush and thinning of some smaller diameter trees), forest and meadow restoration, and invasive plant species removal. Many of the projects will be operational in the fall.

Under Prop 84 guidelines, funds may be awarded to government agencies, non-profit organizations, or federally recognized tribes.

Projects may be on public or private land, but the outcome must serve to protect the watershed and provide public benefit.

Because of decades of fire suppression and conflict over forest management, today's major forest fires can have a devastating impact on the landscape and on the watershed, Branham said. The resulting erosion and siltation pollute our rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

By spending our precious dollars up in the Sierra proactively, we can reduce the risk and consequence of these fires, protecting the source of two-thirds of California's drinking water.

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The SNC receives no general fund tax dollars.

The SNC Governing Board meets quarterly around the Sierra Nevada Region, which spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties and runs from the Oregon border on the north, to southeast of Bakersfield.

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